Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /070 W

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R 121245Z FEB 77 FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5900 INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL ALGIERS 0372

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, AG, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT VISITS ALGIERS

- 1. FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT EDGAR FAURE ARRIVED ALGIERS FEB 10 FOR SCHEDULED FOUR-DAY VISIT.
- 2. FRENCH EMBASSY INFORMS US THAT VISIT IS RESULT OF INVITATION DELIVERED BY ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR IN PARIS BEDJAOUI TO FAURE ASKING FAURE TO COME TO "ADVISE ON FORMALITIES AND ORGANIZATION OF ALGERIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY", ELECTION FOR WHICH SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 25.
- 3. SOURCE OBSERVED THAT THIS PRETEXT PRETTY WEAK AND COMMENTED THAT FRENCH HAVE IMPRESSION THAT ALGERIANS HAVE TRUMPED-UP FAURE VISIT TO USE IT AS OCCASION TO RESOLVE CURRENT DEADLOCK OVER FRENCH PRISONERS HELD BY ALGERIANS.
- 4. ALGERIANS HAVE STILL NOT RELEASED SEVEN FRENCH PRISONERS THEY PROMISED TO RELEASE LAST MONTH AND ARE STILL HOLDING TWO FRENCHMEN SENTENCED ON ECONOMIC ESPIONAGE CHARGES. DURING NEGOTIATIONS ON RELEASE, ALGERIANS REPORTEDLY REQUESTED MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM GISCARD; GISCARD REFUSED; STALEMATE REMAINS. CONFIDENTIAL

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5. FAURE APPRENTLY THOROUGHLY BRIEFED ON PRISONER ISSUE BY QUAI BEFORE COMING AND, ACCORDING TO SOURCE, INTENDS TO RAISE ISSUE WITH HIS HOSTS. IF HE CAN SPRING THEM, RLEASE WILL REMOVE IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSTRAINT ON CURRENT FRENCH-ALGERIAN RLEATIONS, WHICH HAD BEEN ON UPSWING UNTIL PRISONER

	Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

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